

Date of Hearing: April 24, 2010

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

Paul J. Cook, Chair

AB 1932 (Gorell) – As Amended: April 17, 2012

SUBJECT: United States armed services: healing arts boards

SUMMARY: Requires a report from healing arts boards regarding veterans. Specifically, this bill:

1. Requires, by January 1, 2014, and annually thereafter, every healing arts board to issue a specified written report to the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Legislature that clearly details the methods of evaluating the education, training, and experience obtained in military service and whether that education, training, and experience is applicable to the board's requirements for licensure.
2. Contains a sunset provision. The requirement to submit a report to the Legislature under subdivision (a) shall be inoperative on January 1, 2018, pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code.
3. Requires that a report to the Legislature shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.
4. Declares the intent of the Legislature in this regard.

EXISTING LAW

1. Provides for the licensure and regulation of various healing arts professions and vocations by boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA).
2. With regard to all licensed professions: It is the policy of this state that, consistent with the provision of high-quality services, persons with skills, knowledge, and experience obtained in the armed services of the United States should be permitted to apply this learning and contribute to the employment needs of the state at the maximum level of responsibility and skill for which they are qualified.
 - a. To this end, rules and regulations of boards provided for in this code shall provide for methods of evaluating education, training, and experience obtained in the armed services, if applicable to the requirements of the business, occupation, or profession regulated. These rules and regulations shall also specify how this education, training, and experience may be used to meet the licensure requirements for the particular business, occupation, or profession regulated. Each board shall consult with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Military Department before adopting these rules and regulations. Each board shall perform the duties required by this section within existing budgetary resources of the agency within which the board operates. [Emphasis added.]

3. Specific to healing arts professions: It is the policy of the State of California that, consistent with high quality health care services, persons with skills, knowledge and experience obtained in the armed services of the United States should be permitted to apply such learning and contribute to the health manpower needs of the state at the maximum level of responsibility and skill for which they are qualified.
4. To this end, the rules and regulations of healing arts boards shall provide for methods of evaluating education, training, and experience obtained in military service if such training is applicable to the requirements of that profession.
5. The 19 healing arts boards are:
 - a. Acupuncture Board
 - b. Behavioral Sciences, Board of
 - c. Dental Hygiene Committee of California
 - d. Dental Board of California
 - e. Hearing Aid Dispensers Bureau
 - f. Medical Board of California
 - g. Naturopathic Medicine Committee
 - h. Occupational Therapy, California Board of
 - i. Optometry, Board of
 - j. Osteopathic Medical Board of California
 - k. Pharmacy, Board of
 - l. Physical Therapy Board of California
 - m. Physician Assistant Committee
 - n. Podiatric Medicine, Board of
 - o. Psychology, Board of
 - p. Registered Nursing, Board of
 - q. Respiratory Care Board
 - r. Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board
 - s. Veterinary Medical Board and Registered Veterinary Technician Examining Committee
 - t. Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians, Board of

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown at this time.

COMMENTS: According to the DCA, the DCA "...is the umbrella agency that oversees 19 healing arts boards that protect and serve California consumers. The healing arts boards regulate a variety of professions from doctors and nurses to physical therapists and optometrists."

According to the author:

Veterans, particularly young veterans from the era of conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, face an alarming employment situation. Gulf War II era veterans were unemployed at a rate of 12.5%, compared to 9.5% for the overall population. To the extent that these veterans have military training and/or have experience (likely in austere and extreme circumstances) allowing them to use that training and experience to transition into the same or a related field, facilitating their employment, is strongly aligned with the explicit policies of the State.

As stated by the author, the employment landscape for all Americans is challenging, but it is particularly so for veterans. Young veteran unemployment is alarming. To the extent that California can recognize vocational training received by veterans and facilitate their employment, that is a benefit.

Existing law requires the Healing Arts Boards to:

provide for methods of evaluating education, training, and experience obtained in the armed services, if applicable to the requirements of the business, occupation, or profession regulated. These rules and regulations shall also specify how this education, training, and experience may be used to meet the licensure requirements for the particular business, occupation, or profession regulated

The bill directs the Healing Arts Boards to evaluate if and to what extent they can support such transitions from military to civilian vocations and to report on those conclusions to the Department and the Legislature. It does not dictate to the Healing Arts Boards how they should accommodate the transition, leaving that to their discretion and experience.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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